

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the Office Action. By this Response, claims 2, 10 and 12 have been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13-18 remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner:

rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 91/08047;

rejected claims 4 and 14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 91/08047 in view of Quick et al. (U.S. Patent 4,211,313); and

indicated that claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15-18 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 2. Claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 7, 8, 11, 13, 17 and 18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3. Therefore, Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13-18 are all in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Abstract and the specification have been made to correct minor informalities and/or typographical errors. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not add any new matter to the present application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13-18 and the present application are in condition for allowance, and action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

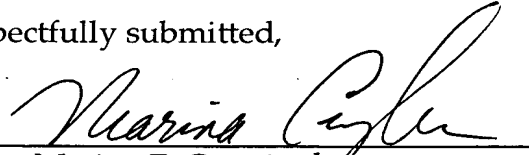
Should the Examiner have any question regarding the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative at the phone number listed below.

Application No. 10/666.378
Response dated March 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 7, 2004

Although Applicants do not believe a fee is due with the submission of this Response, if it is deemed that a fee is required, please charge to Deposit Account 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marina F. Cunningham", written over a horizontal line.

Marina F. Cunningham
Registration No. 38,419
Attorney for Applicant

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3402
(860) 549-5290

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace drawing sheets 1/4, 2/4 and 4/4 with the attached Replacement Sheets. FIGS. 1, 2 and 4 have been amended to reflect that input shaft 2 and output shaft 3 are not rotatably connected to one another. FIG. 1 has further been amended to reflect that elements 28 and 12 are rotatably connected to one another.